1

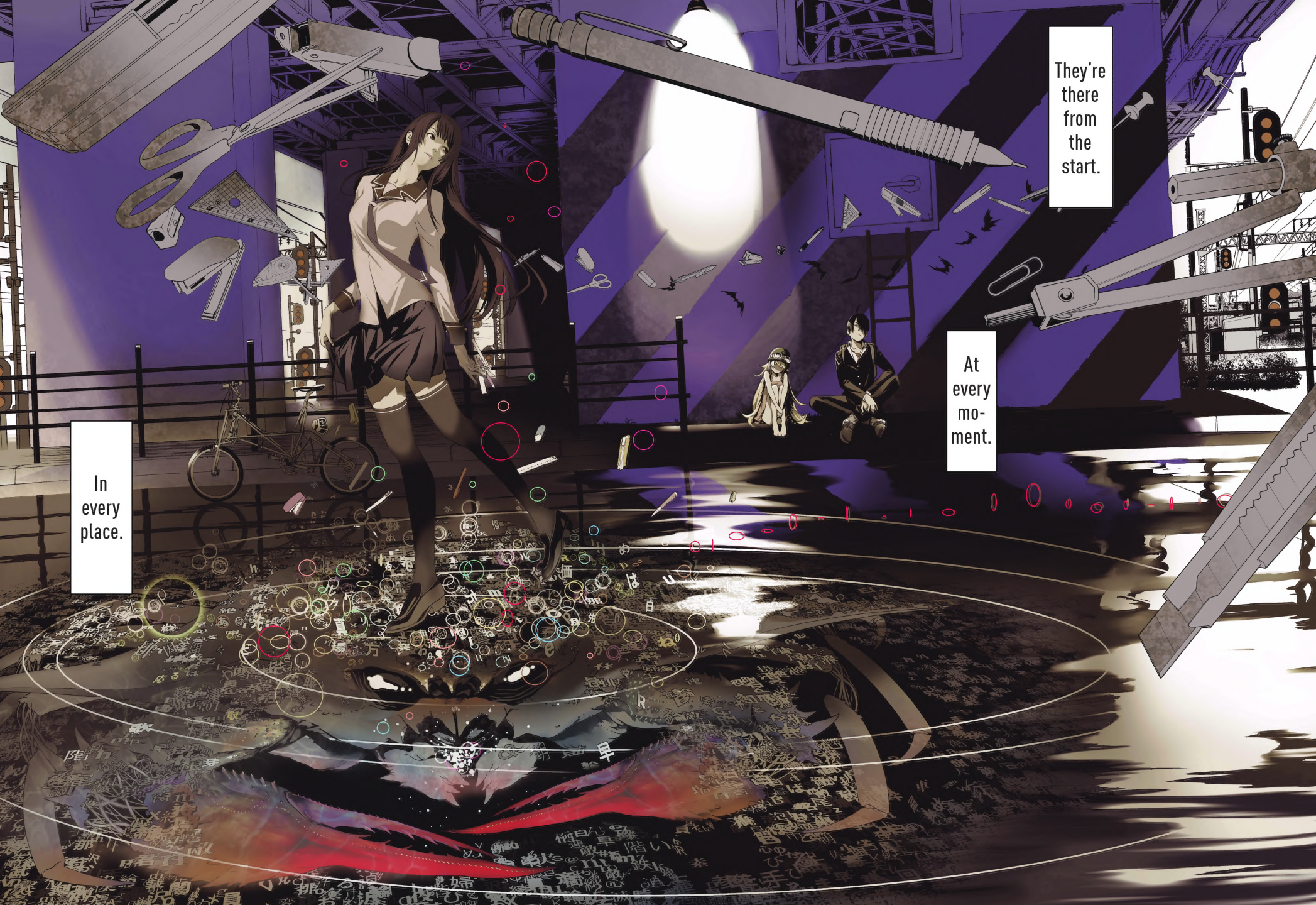
BAKEMONOGATARI

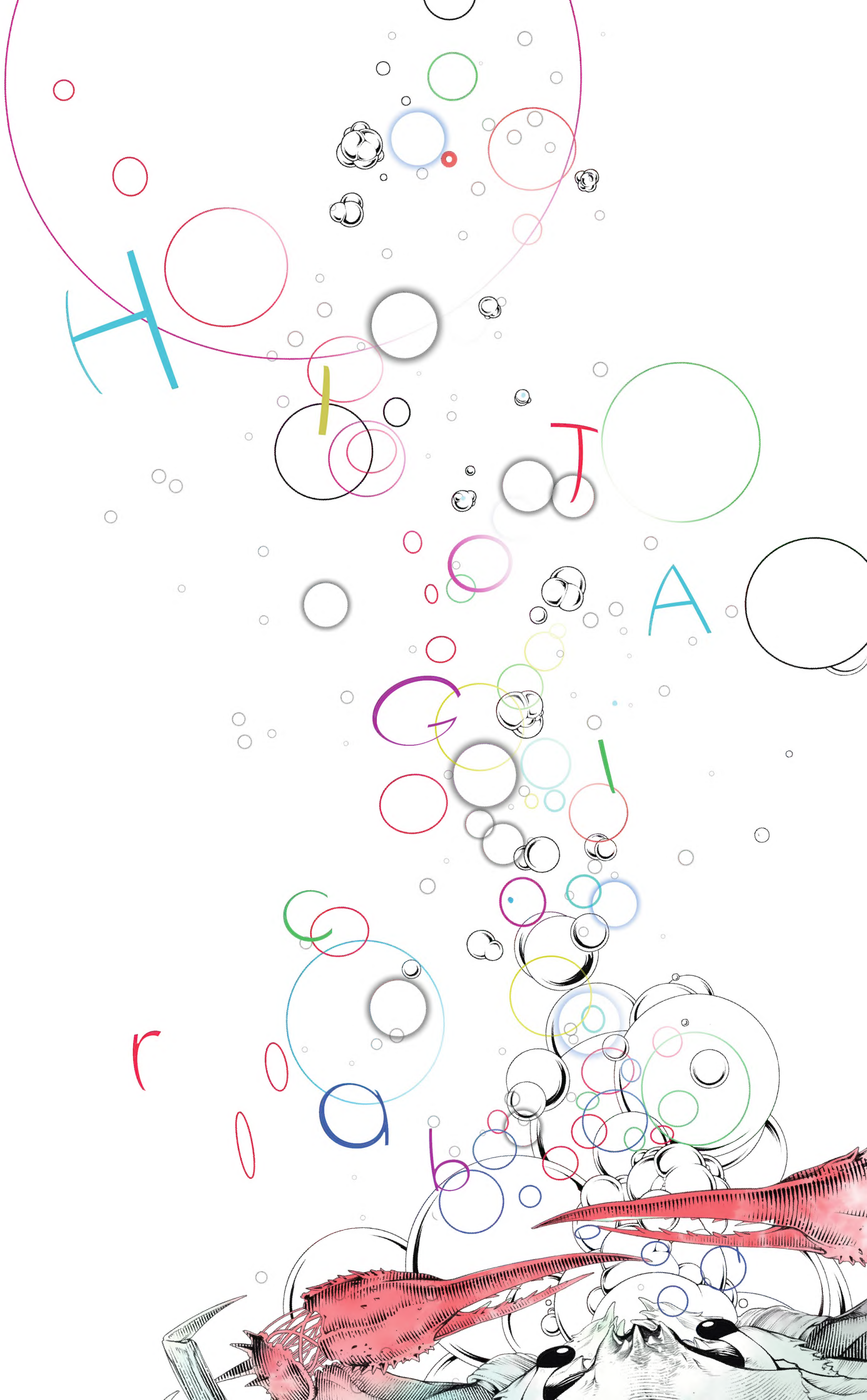
OH!GREAT

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

Monsters
don't
come
to you.


They're there from the start.
At every mo-ment.
In every place.


HOJE
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BAKEMONOGATARI

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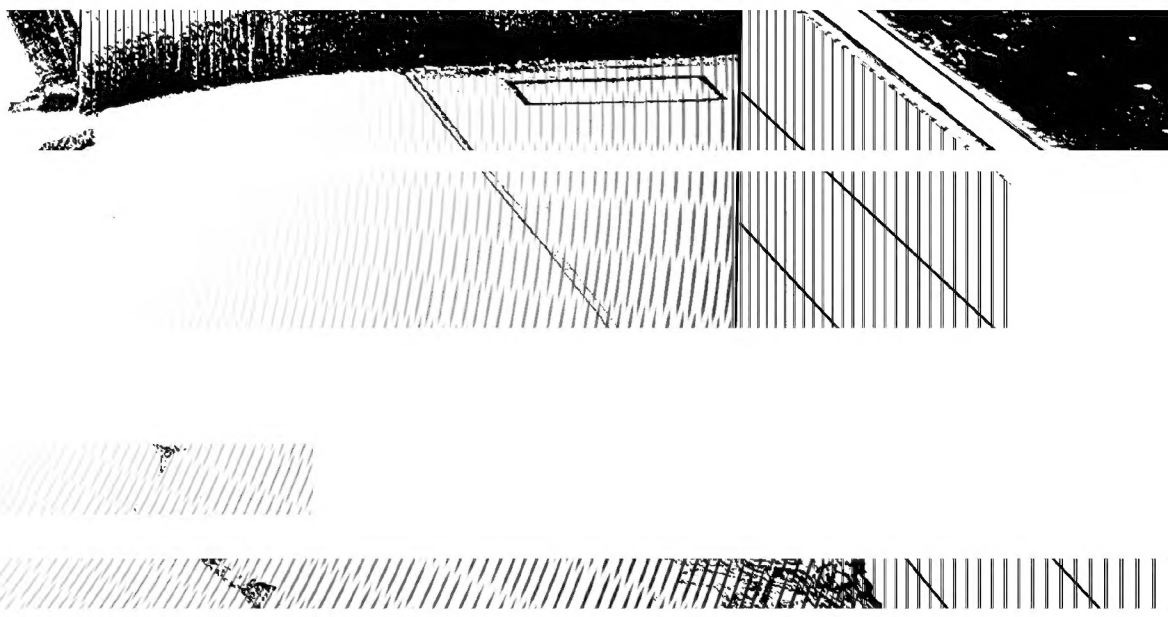
1

Chapter 1

Hitagi Crab



BOOK DESIGN

VEIA

My bottom hurts.

It's numb.

GASHAKK

And my skirt got wrinkled.

Not my fault.

This is my first time riding on a bicycle with someone else.

You should be a little more generous. Give me your bag to use as a cushion or something.

DO YOU NOT GIVE A CRAP ABOUT ANYONE OTHER THAN YOURSELF?!

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

NO

TRES

WHICH BODY PART ?!

or I'll lop it off.

Stop trying to talk your way out of this,

didn't you say you'd even consider generosity as hostile behavior?

And anyway,

I bet even Marie Antoinette was a little more modest and humble than you.

IN WHAT TIMELINE?!

She's my disciple.

And stop casually riffing off of everything I say.

You're almost making it sound like we're class-mates.

WE ARE CLASS-MATES!

JUST HOW MUCH ARE YOU GOING TO DISAVOW ME?!

...This man of yours lives in quite a strange place...

I guess.

He's a strange guy, I'll give you that...

But not as strange as you.

ARARAGI.
KOYOMI
ARARAGI.

Don't call me that.

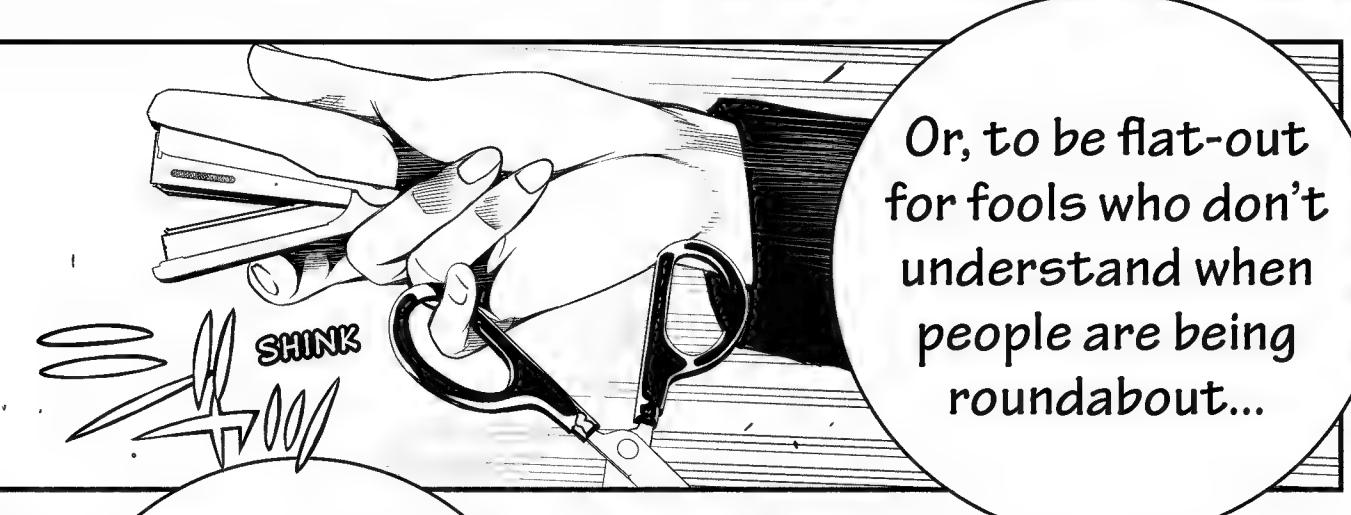
Call me Miss Senjogahara, or Lady Hitagi Senjogahara.

Anyway ...

What is it, Senjogahara ?

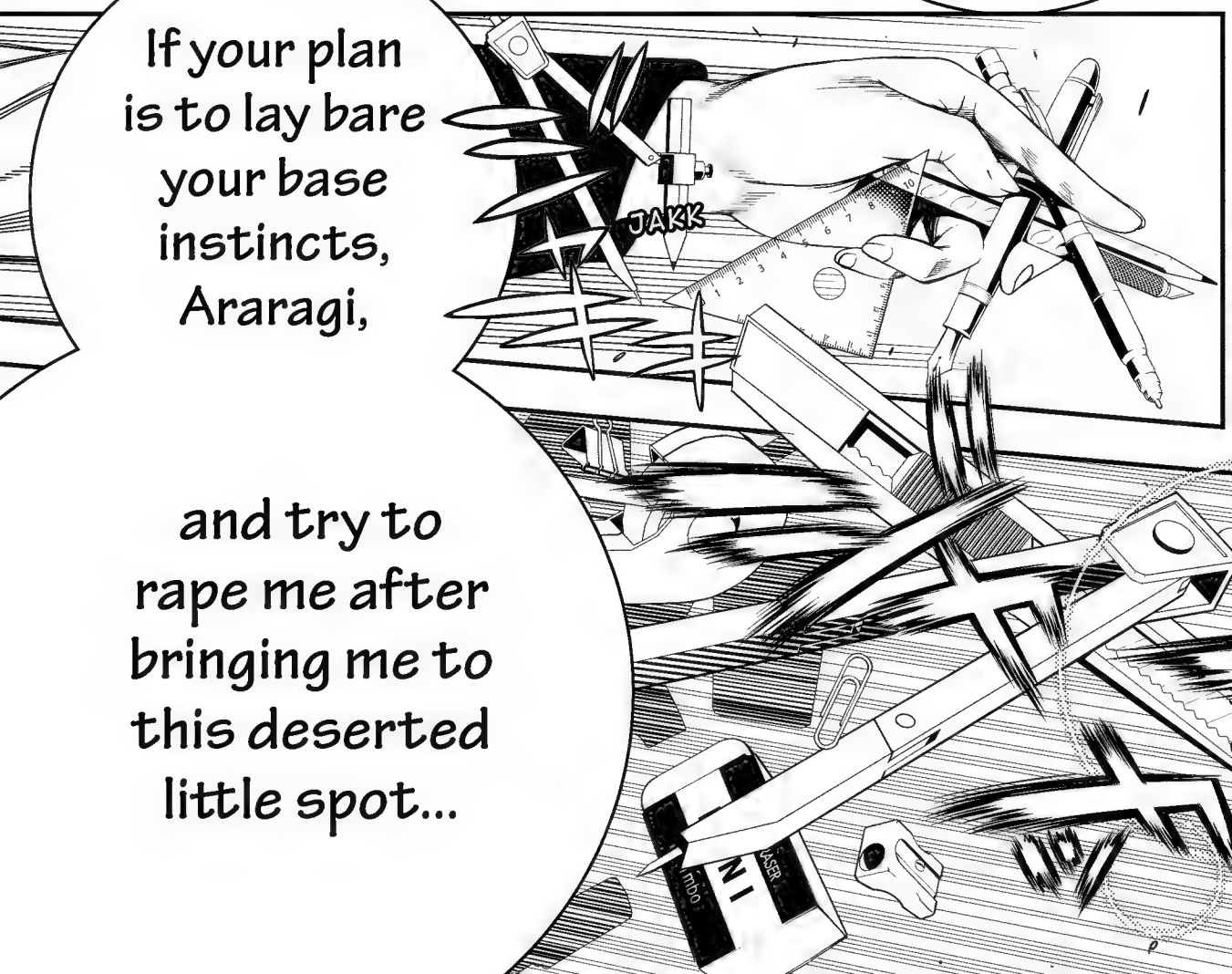
You might be surprised,

but my body may not be worth breaking the law to make yours.



Or, to be flat-out for fools who don't understand when people are being roundabout...

If your plan is to lay bare your base instincts, Araragi,



and try to rape me after bringing me to this deserted little spot...

I will do anything and everything in my power

to pay you back slash-fiction style.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!

That is, of course,

if you were able to rape me...

Something tasted like blood ...

What is she ?

A human weapon ?

Memories of that taste of blood filling my entire mouth

that came from the long-healed wound inside it.

30 minutes earlier.

Miss Senjoga-hara?

Why do you ask,

Araragi ?

PREPARA

Well ... y'know ...

I was just wondering... what kind of person she is.

Don't you know her better than I do?

You've been in the same class three years in a row, haven't you?

Well, yeah, but...

Yeah, boys really do like the sickly types~

Stop it.

That's not what this is. Really.

Hitagi Senjoga-hara.

While you might think otherwise because her family name means "battlefield," she is what you might call a sickly, cloistered princess.

She's graceful and evanescent, like her thin lines could snap at a touch.

And I agreed with the sentiment. The words did seem to fit her.

never expected to partici-pate in P.E., of course.

Always alone reading a book in one corner of the class-room,

No, it goes beyond that. I'd never once seen her engaged in any sort of vigorous activity.

Not a single one.

She didn't seem to have any friends.

It's not like she's bullied, though. It was just like that was her natural place to be.

The shrewd take might be that her constant reading is a behavior intended to tell you not to speak to her because she's reading, a way of building walls around herself.

like it's natural not to be here.

But also,

Like it's natural for her to be there, alone.

is that "I don't know" she says in that thin voice whenever the teacher calls on her...

All I've learned about her in these two years

TAP

TAP

TAP

Oh.

But she has excellent grades.

I kinda knew that...

but I don't want to hear those words from you, Hanekawa.

Not from the legendary class president who scored 598 points across six courses in five core subjects.

Tsubasa Hanekawa ...

is a class president born to be a class president who embodies what a class president should be, someone who makes you wonder if she's going to be a class president in some capacity for the rest of her life.

By the way, this is Hanekawa over here. →

How rare.

You're interested in a girl, Araragi?

HUH ?

I'm not gay, you know.

YOU'RE NOT?!

WAIT, YOU REALLY THOUGHT I WAS?!

SORT BY COLOR

And so, while I was not the class's problem child but merely an ornament,

I'm gonna turn your life around !!

...is what she declared before forcefully naming me as her vice president.

Why ?!

WHPP

Boo-zo

it had nothing to do with the spectacle I witnessed from my angle at the time. ...Nothing at all. Probably.

I FEEL LIKE I JUST GOT A PEEK AT HER BOOBS!

WHAT'S GOING ON? SHE'S WEARING CLOTHES, BUT...

As for why I didn't put up a fight...

We were never in the same class, but...

she and I went to the same middle school.

She wasn't anything like the way she is now.

But ...

I guess I could say I'm surprised ...

PREPARATORY

Naotsu High

Or maybe... it's not what I expected.

HIGASH

滝川東中学校

05

Kiyokaze Middle School Team
Run at Full Speed

KIYOKAZE

翔べ！

The track team.

She was famous.

I heard all about her, at least.

Why do you look so smug?!

She was its star!!

☆

BOOM

BOING

One of her juniors was super fast, too.

...I almost asked... but stopped myself.

More famous than you?

As far as I know, there's no one more famous in our grade than Hanekawa.

They were known as the Valhalla Duo, you see...

Hanekawa seems to seriously think of herself as "a regular girl who has nothing to recommend her but being on the studious side."

She hates being treated as special more than anything.

Her presence is so... evanes-cent...

... prettier.

Compared to then, she's so much...

she's so... pretty now.

But...

As if she had... none.

In other words.

Evanescent presence.

That's right.

Almost like she was a ghost.

It happened this morning.

What should I have done then?

I think I made a better choice than moving out of the way.

Or, I thought I did.

Can you handle the rest?

Oh. Ah— I forgot. Sorry, Hane-kawa.

Our class is either putting on a café or a haunted house for the culture festival, right?

We can just have everyone vote on one of the two, that has a nice democratic veneer to it.

True, but... you're so cynical.

Why the sudden rush?

Hm? Umm...

The rest of... what? We haven't decided on anything yet.

Old Man Oshino wanted to see me today.

I'm going to that building.

Really?

Mr. Oshino?

Hanekawa owes Oshino, too.

Yeah.

I can't keep you, then.

Please send him my regards.

I feel a little guilty about cutting things short that blatantly, but...

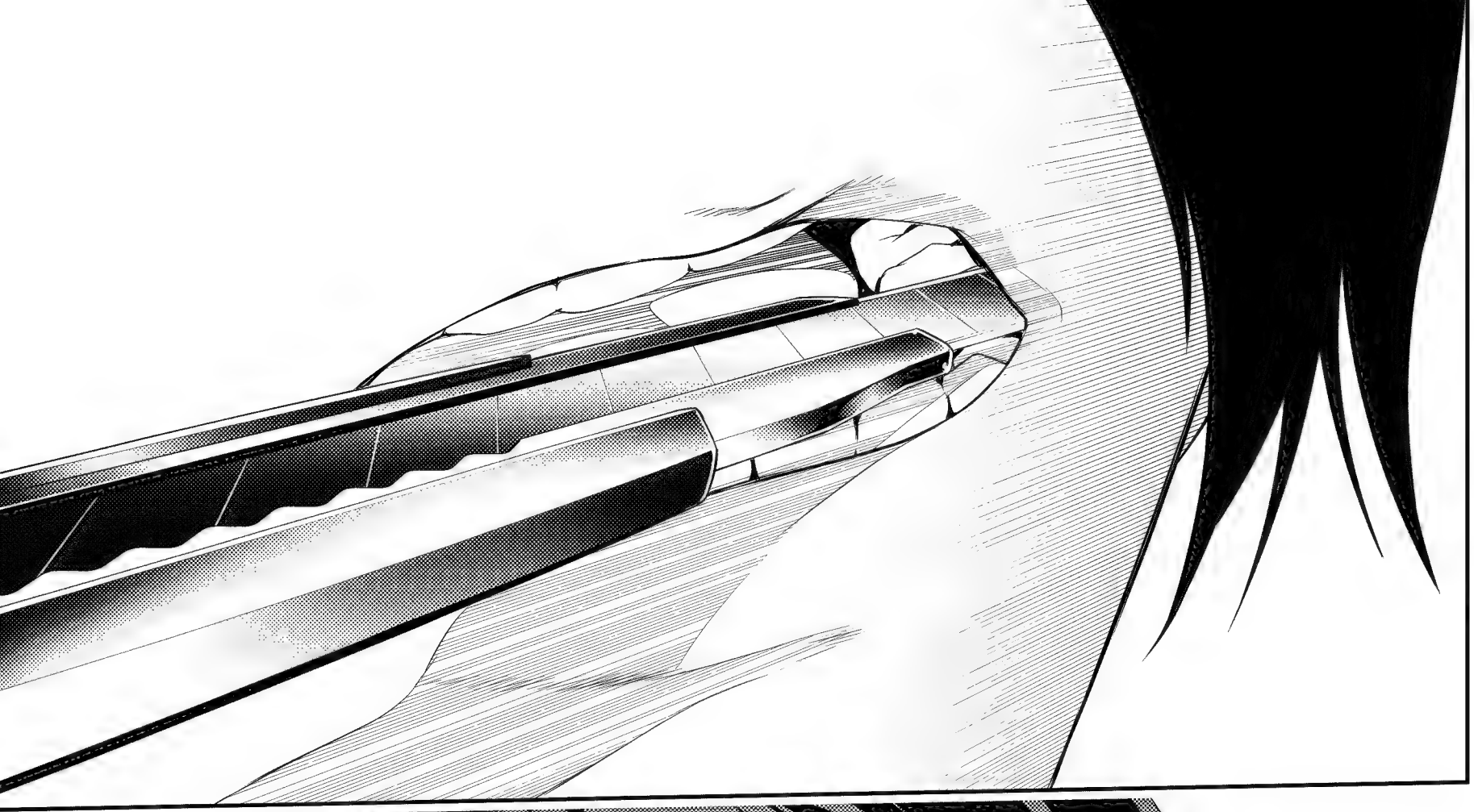
It's fine.

I'm not lying.

THPP

WHAT WERE YOU DISCUSSING WITH HANEKAWA?

DON'T MOVE.



Oh... no.

I should have said, "You can move, but it would be very risky."

...

...!!

?!

?!!

JOLT

PIT

CHKK

CHKKK

Curiosity is such a cockroach, isn't it?

How insufferable. You dare get on my nerves.

The trifling insect that you are.

Flocking to precisely the secrets that people want untouched.

The right side was feeling lonely, right?

St—

Ah...

CHOP

DRIP

DRIP

Wha—

Ugh.

I can't believe how careless I was.

I try to be twice as careful as the average person when I climb stairs.

Who would have imagined there'd be an actual banana peel on the floor right there?

DRIP

They're not kidding when they say a single fart can ruin a hundred days of sermons.

What's... with this girl...?

What is with this girl?!!

Why's she talking about farts?

A fart?

You've noticed, haven't you.

The secret about my body.

I know what it is.

You're thinking some-thing right now...

In other words... you're the second to know.

The only other person at this school who knows about this is the health teacher, Harukami...

...

I swear I wasn't looking !!!

Dis-gusting.

Staring at my breasts like that.

So...

I wonder, what should I do...

what kind of deal are we going to have to *cut*?

If I want you to make a promise to me,

to make you keep my secret to yourself.

How are we going to *staple* your mouth shut?

Tell me.

Is she in her right mind...?

Is...

ZHFF

SHUDDER

She's so scary ～!!

She's...

?!

The doctor at the hospital says the cause is unknown.

Or rather, that there might not *be* a cause.

That "*It is as it was, as it is now.*"

Principle

Don't you think that's ridiculous?

After all that fiddling around with a stranger's body.

Until middle school, I was a normal, cute girl.

Putting aside the fact that she just called herself cute...

Anyway.

Two years.

So it was true...

She was going to the hospital.

More than enough time.

To give up on things. To resign yourself ...

Two whole years.

It was just two brief weeks over spring break for me.

Unlike me.

Are you feeling sorry for me?

Oh, how generous of you.

But it's not generosity I want.

I want your silence and your indifference, nothing more.

If you have those,

could you give them to me?

CHKK

If you promise me your silence and your indifference,

then nod twice,

Araragi.

I'll consider any other action, even freezing, as hostile behavior,

and I'll move promptly to attack.

NOD NOD

klik klik klik

...Thank you.

SFF

GACHUNK

You're not going to scream?

Impressive.

WHPP

I'll let you off at that today.

I hate being so lenient,

but you did promise, so I ought to show you some goodwill.

Ah—

KACHUNK

KLINK

She's like some devil.

Oww.

Urgh.

Ouch.

RIP

CHA

KLINK

SHWWW

But...

it's fine. This much

I can take just fine.

Huh ?!

I don't under-stand, Araragi.

If I ever catch you tossing a leftover peel on the stairs,

I'll never forgive you.

You're still here, Araragi?

Hm ?

GACHIK

What ?

Hey, Hanekawa ... Do you like bananas?

Well, I guess so...

Two years.

Two whole years.

Compared to my two weeks...

Senjogahara fought that thing for two years.

That's just...

so long.

Oh, I'm so surprised.

No, I'll go ahead and be honest with you here and say that I'm surprised.

I can't believe you...

SKREECH

She calls that being surprised ?!

So you'd been doing this to others, too?!

you're already this rebellious. As far as I can remember, this is a first, Araragi.

After having all of that done to you,

Your eye for an eye attitude agrees with my own sense of justice.

GRAK
CHIK
CHIK
CHIK
CHIKK
GRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
CHAK
CHUNK

All right.

I get it.

KREAK

KREAK

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

LET'S HAVE OURSELVES A WAR.

Isn't the government neglecting its duties by letting someone this dangerous run free?

Hey. Um, Japan?

...

Oh, well.

We're not?

Why do you sound so disappointed ?!

tsk

W-Wait. Wait, no.

We're not having a war!

I might be able to help you out.

I was think-ing,

just maybe, you know...

Just keep your mouth shut! Pay no attention to me, that's all I want!!

Didn't I tell you I don't need any cheap sympathy?

Give me a break.

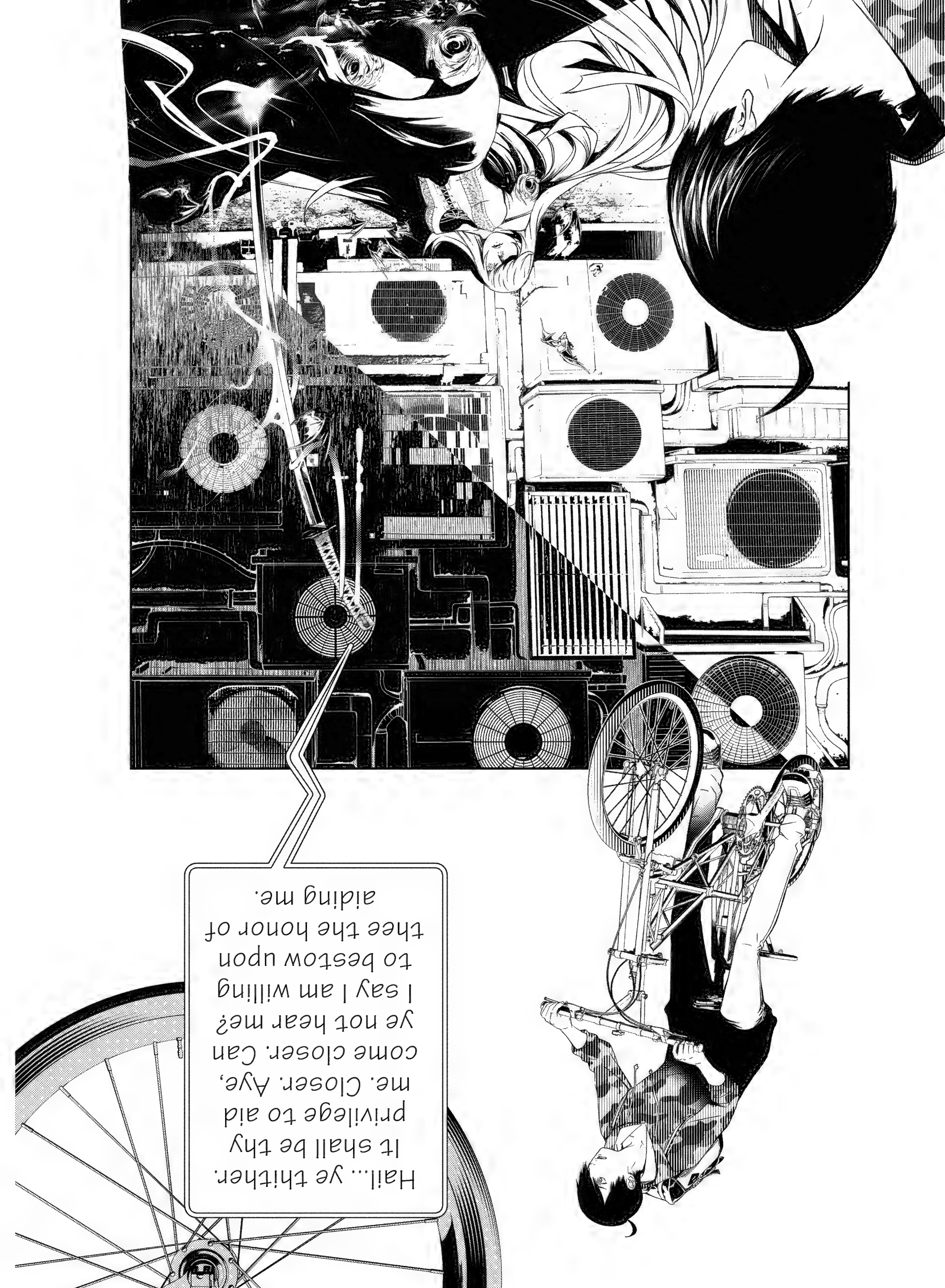
Didn't I tell you already?! Generosity, too— I'll deem as hostile behavior!!

JOLT

...
wound there ...?!
There's no...
左側通行

It hap-pened during spring break.
I was attacked by a vampire.
In this day and age. It's embarrassing enough to make me want to go into hiding, but it's the truth.
It's not like I went on a trip to Europe or anything. Right here on the streets of Naoetsu, the kind of middle-of-nowhere town you might find anywhere in Japan.

ンe.


Hail... ye thither.
It shall be thy
privilege to aid
me. Closer. Aye,
come closer. Can
ye not hear me?
I say I am willing
to bestow upon
thee the honor of
aiding me.

The iron-blooded, hot-blooded, yet cold-blooded vampire.

My name is Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade.

Give me thine blood.

Now hurry...!

死にたくない
I don't want to die
死にたくない
ごめんなさい
I'm sorry
助けて
ごめんなさい
Save me
助けて
お願い
Please
No I can't die
お願いします
死ぬのは嫌だ
死ぬのは嫌だ
No 嫌
Someone 誰か
誰か
誰か

Usually, when regular people get attacked by a vampire, they're saved by an expert vampire hunter...

SLASH

or by some sort of secret holy force.

That's how it always goes in manga or anime or whatever.

But in my case,

I was saved by a shabby old dude named Oshino who happened to be passing by.

NO TRESPASSING

Oshino ...

You're saying... he lives here?

This Mr. Mèmè Oshino.

Mèmè Oshino, huh... Quite an adorable sounding name, I have to say.

Stop it.

If you get your hopes up like that, it'll be bad when you see him.

The contrast is gonna make you puke.

like what you and I are going through.

怪異
Aberration

Anyway, this guy says he specializes in *this kind of thing*,

In fact, don't even classify me as being in the same category as you.

It's not as if I trust you already or anything.

Don't be so casual when you speak about me.

This girl is such a pain.

Then what should I say?

Puh-leeze, Miss Sen-joe-guh-hara. Allow me. To save you.

ちょん
BOW

Well, why don't you get down on all fours and beg?

Please, Miss Senjogahara. Allow me to save you.

I don't like the way you sounded like a robot, though.

That was good enough for her?!

ZAKK

Fine.

I'll accept your sincerity in kind.

NO
TRESPASSING
Huh?
NO
TRESPASSING
All of it.
...Er, your stationery.
Then let me hold onto your weapons.
And ...
he'd saved Hanekawa's life, too.
I can't have such a man face a dangerous person.
Oshino is a weird dude, but... he did technically save my life.
...
Fine.
GLARE
...It seems ...
you've caught me in a trap.
No! And I'm the only one here!
...Can I just go home...?
GLANCE
キョロ...
GLANCE
キョロ...

that stretch into the fourth dimension or something ?!

D-Do her clothes have pockets ...

KLATTER

How long are you going to spend picking those up?

Let's hurry up already, you piece of trash.

You're the one who scattered them everywhere!

PAKRAK

Listen.

If something is to happen to me, 5,000 of my rowdiest pals are going to appear in the blink of an eye, and...

Okay.

Yeah, uh-huh, 5,000 of 'em...

WHAK

SWEEEE

That's right. Senjoga-hara's body
had no weight to it.
As if
only her existence was there.
PWOM
FLOAT

A crab.

It happened when I met a crab.

It took it away.

All of it. My weight.

PAT

Thank you...

Th...

Wh-What's with that face?!

Thanking someone who saved them is the least a proper human being can do, right?!

I'm shocked that any part of you is a proper human being!!

Why...

did you save me?

NO TRESPASSING

SAFETY FIRST

NO TRESPASSING

NO TRESPASSING

SAFETY FIRST

I can't save you.

I can't do anything, in fact...

How should I put it...

Pretty soon, you're going to need to save yourself.

That's the feeling I get...

I'm just here to show you the way.

Then please do,

my friendly guide-servant.

I HEARD THAT LAST WORD!

Monsters don't come to you.

They're there from the start.

At every moment.

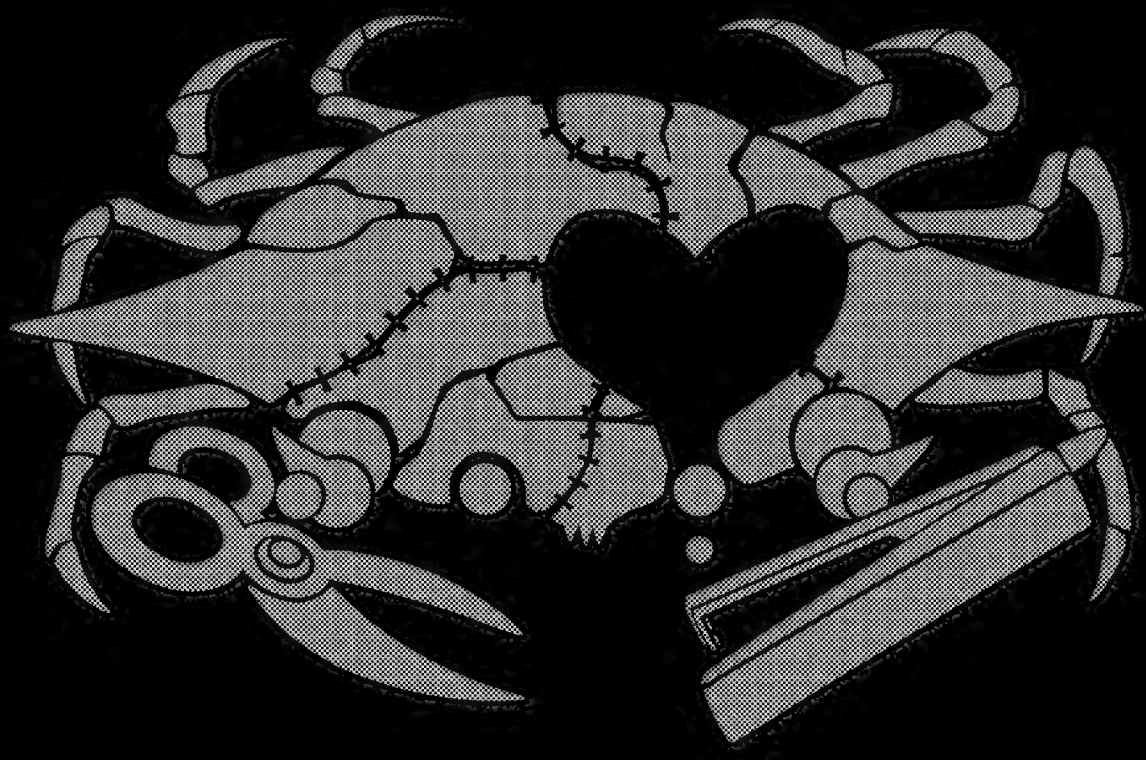
In every place.

BZZT

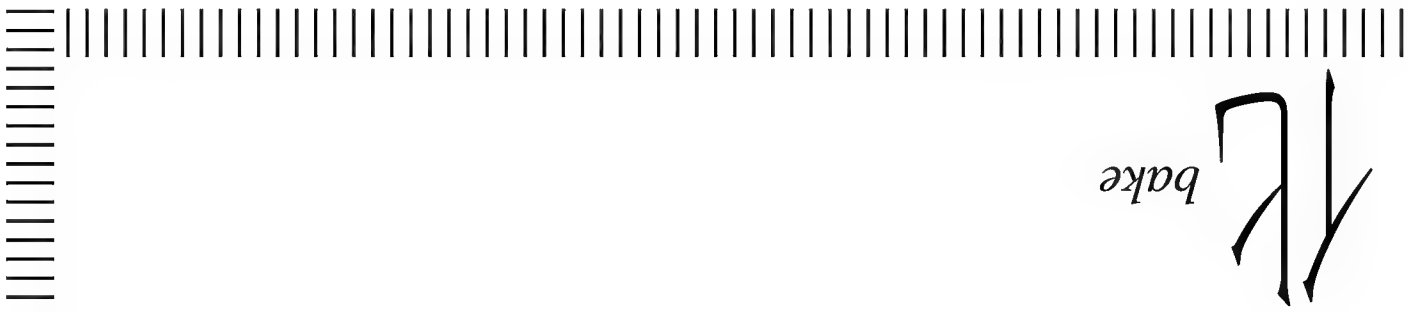
Inside

every
one of
us.

Bakemonogatari



01: Hitagi Crab



HITAGIcrab

1

器 *gatari*

物 *mono*

HITAGIcrab

I

化 *bake*

Can I ask you a question?

If I said that immortality would seems convenient, you feel hurt?

Not so much now.

Not now.

Not so much now.

Ah, too bad. If only I'd known.

I wanted to try XXXing your XXX, or XXXing you, and all kinds of other things.

HEY!

WHAT'S BEHIND ALL THOSE REDACTIONS?!

AND STOP LOOKING SO SINCERELY DISAPPOINTED!!

Hitagi Senjoga-hara.

My class-mate who had most of her weight—

or more precisely, 9/10ths of her weight—stolen by a mysterious crab.

SFF

This probably was equivalent to her feeling as though everything around her has ten times the mass.

Even this empty can. I could just kick it away.

To her, it might as well be a concrete block.

KLIK

A WAR

LET'S HAVE OUR SELVES

Oh.

The reason she's armed to the teeth with that statio-nery.

The reason she hurt me with such naked hostility.

I think I get it now.

YOU FINALLY CAME, ARARAGI.

So you've brought yet another girl with you today?

First Missy Class Prez, and now this? You got a thing for girls with straight bangs?

Why, I'm quite glad for you.

I'm Hitagi Senjogahara.

Araragi told me about you.

BOW

Nice to meet you.

Oshino.

She's ignoring me!!

Um ...

So this is ...

...

Really ?

This is how you treat me?

Hmm ...

...Hm?

Do you ... see some-thing ?

Nah ...

I don't.

Not a thing! ♡

GOLF

BAKEMONOGATARI

Two hours later.

民倉荘

TAMIKURA APARTMENTS

This room is empty ...

ZHAAAAA

"My mother fell for a religion. A sketchy one..."

Senjogahara started talking about herself as if she was making some kind of excuse.

Ultimately, Senjo-gahara's parents divorced at the end of last year.

She lives alone with her dad now.

Not only did she give them everything she had,

she even went into massive debt.

It sounds like he rarely comes home these days because he's trying to work off all that debt.

KREAK

It's like I'm living alone. It's nice.

Huh?!

Araragi. I'm going to break your every bone.

You nailed it your second try!! You couldn't have done any better!!

Oh, I'm so honored! Ha! Ha! Ha!

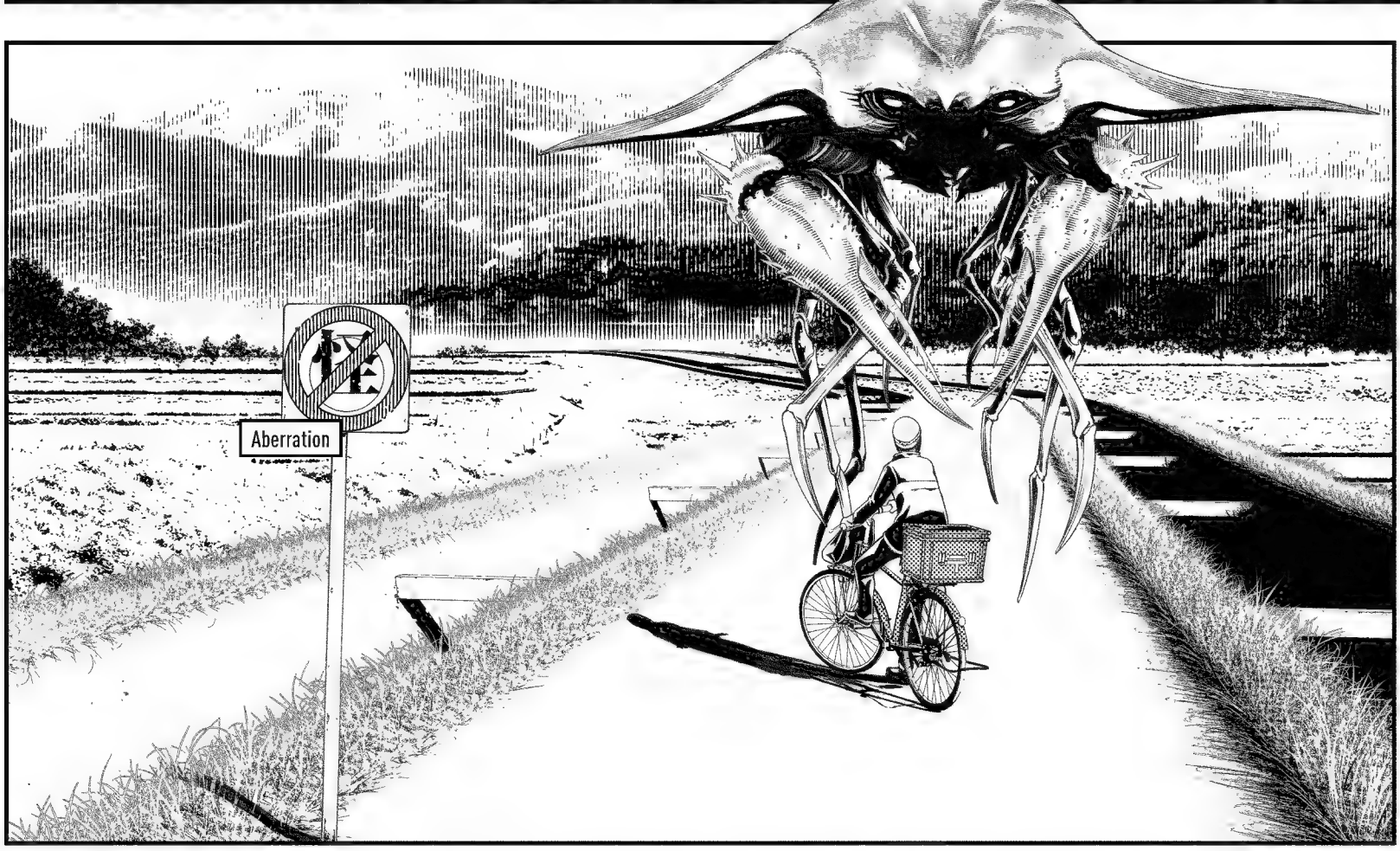
Wait, maybe I was right the first time?

I'm sorry. Make yourself at home, I mean.

Hane-kawa...

Seems like all that talk about her being a rich, cloistered princess... was old information,

"The *omoshi-kani.*"


Aberration

the heavy crab, the stone-weight crab, or even the *omoishi-gani*. The details vary.
Depending on the locale, it might be called the weight crab,
A "Crab of Weight." It's a bit of folklore from the mountainous areas of Miyazaki.

...

What the stories have in common

is that it "steals people's weight."

S-So when you say crab... like really, a crab?

And we're not in Miyazaki ...

Who cares about how bad my gestures are?

That's an American crawfish, not a crab.

Ah hah hah! You really are an idiot, Araragi.

The location doesn't matter.

Given the right *situation*— it *arises there.*

That's all. Simple as can be.

HAH HA

STAY OUT OF MY BUSI-NESS!

PLEASE !!

And why would you be asking me that when you were attacked by a vampire in Backwater, Japan?!

But crab, stone, it doesn't really matter. Some even say it's a rabbit.

Since the young lady says she came across a crab,

we must be dealing with a crab.

Uh, okay ...

What it's called is all the same to me.

Can you be a little more serious about this...?

...

What's that supposed to mean?

Oh. I wouldn't say so.

It is important... Yeah. Names are important.

...I'm here because I heard you would save me.

What's that? Save you?

Me? Now that I can't do. Hah hah—

You're just going to get saved on your own.

it's up to your point of view... or maybe your heart and mind. We just have to switch it around.

In other words, young lady,

and they're nowhere, depending on your view.

Those kinds of things are everywhere,

I think you've started to get an idea of the answer here.

No...

It's some-thing else.

That almost sounds like

a Zen koan.

that way now because of *something.*

You aren't

Cursed

Haunted

Haunt

What I'm saying is that I can't stand you playing the victim!!!

Five people.

Most of the girls who encounter the Crab of Weight are like that.

Oh ho, not bad... I was sure you were some kind of stuck-up princess...

Sorry! ♡

Five people... have looked me in the eyes and spouted similar lines to me.

All of them were frauds.

All eventually spit up blood.

That's why?!

No wonder she's so good with that stapler!!

Mr. Mèmè Oshino, right?

Do you share their blood as well?

I never knew frauds were all related.

...

Go home.

Once you do, cleanse your body with cold water,

and change into a clean set of clothes.

Meet me here again at midnight. Okay?

...

SHFF

Hoo...

PTT

I've got my own preparations to make.

May I ask you... one question before I leave?

WHAT IS *THAT*?

Oh...

Uh...

It's nothing.

Neither a shadow nor a trace left.

Not even a name.

She's just sitting there.

She can't do anything. She's nothing.

SHI-NOBU.

SHINOBU OSHINO.

?!

Hold on a sec... I did give her a name yesterday.

She worked hard during Missy Class President's case, after all.

I'm pretty impressed with my sensibility, if I *do* say so myself.

Written with the character for "heart" under the one for "blade."

Fitting, right? I let her reuse my last name as-is.

A husk of a vampire.

The dregs of a beautiful demon.

Something I merely ought to face for the rest of my life.

Just my karma.

It's nothing?

You really don't care?!!

Okay, then.

KAH HAH HAH

Talk about indifferent.

Now that I think about it,

out of all the people *like us*,

Senjogahara might be on the lucky side ...

Hanekawa

READ

It's not like this aberration destroys stuff around her or anything...

Hanekawa

I made materials for our two choices for the culture festival, a café and a haunted house. We'll be proposing them in tomorrow's home room, so please be ready for the presentation.

It might be a serious problem for her...

...Huh.

That's Hane-kawa for you.

With Hanekawa... it was different.

怪猫

Cat Aberration

It destroyed every-thing.

It was a real pain to deal with... for both me and Oshino,

to the point that I nearly died again and again—

Hey.

Move out of the way. I can't get my clothes with you there.

CLOTHES! PUT ON SOME CLOTHES!!

That's what I'm trying to do.

MEOW

THEN COVER UP WITH A TOWEL OR SOME-THING!!!

No way, how class-less.

I'M SAYING YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY!

I forgot to bring them in with me.

WHY NOW ?!

Are you saying I shouldn't ?

What I'd dreamed of wasn't this childlike streaking, this letting-it-all-hang-out...

WHY...?

SHUDDER

WHY DO I FEEL THIS SENSE OF LOSS ...?

SHUDDER

But... no...

Something's ... *wrong...*

I...

I just saw a woman totally naked for the first time...

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

DON'T ASK ME!

Do I have to wear some-thing?

I don't own any white underwear.

So white, I guess?

Clean clothes, huh...?

HEY, I CAUGHT THAT!

I SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!

Why are you screaming every time I do anything?

I'm assking you for help here, butt you won't give it to me.

Just try to lay a finger on me. I know that biting off one's tongue will end the ordeal.

Well, aren't you a chaste one!

Don't tell me you're sexually aroused by the sight of my nude body.

WHY ARE YOU MAKING IT SOUND LIKE THAT'S MY FAULT?!

I'm talking about yours, not mine.

MINE?!

YOU ARE SERIOUSLY DANGER-OUS!!

Okay. You can look now.

Sheesh.

WHAT IS
YOUR GOAL
HEEEEERE
?!?!

Come on. I was trying to thank you for helping me out today.

Act at least a little happy.

And isn't there something else you should be doing?

Huh?! Like what?!

Weeping tears of gratitude, or being moved to your core, or not being able to see straight from all the beauty, or spontaneously belting out a poem of adoration.

What a positive girl Miss Senjogahara is.

It'd only be polite to provide some feedback!!

How inconsid-erate!! Say anything at all, it doesn't matter what it is!!

Why is she the one getting mad at me?!

For most men, getting one's first good, long look at a naked woman

ought to be a pretty big moment to remember.

So why am I being threatened like this during mine...?

...You —

Your breasts are quite nicely shaped...

...Like that?

B-But you said to say anything at aaallll〜〜!!

You're the worst.

Wait, did you come from the future or something ?!

LIFE-LONG? WERE ?!?!

WHY THE PAST TENSE?!

This is why you were a life-long virgin.

HAAH...

Could you please not spray your spittle?

I might catch your virginity.

You can't catch it!!

And you've been talking like it's a given that I'm a virgin!

Hold on, I have two objections to that!!

First!! I'm not a pedophile!!

Second!! I'm sure I could find a grade schooler who would if I looked!

Well, isn't it? No grade schooler would ever give you the time of day.

She's right.

...

Why state the second if the first is true?

So you are a virgin, yes?

URGH... FINE, YES! I'M A LOW-DOWN, DIRTY VIRGIN ...!!

Ugh... Why am I being humiliated like this...?!

LOSER

You should've come out and said so from the start. This moment of happiness is easily worth half of your remaining lifespan, so just get a good look and appreciate it.

Okay, then. I guess you'll be dead at 45.

What are you, the Grim Reaper?!

WHAT ?!

WHY HANEKAWA ?!

So, I see. nothing with Hanekawa yet, hm?

HUH?

NO WAY! THAT'S TOTALLY WRONG!!

ABSO-LUTELY NOT!!

SWOOSH

Aren't you two dating?

You're always togeth-er.

I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE.

Oh. So I was right.

A LEAD-ING QUES-TION ?!

BOOING

I FEEL LIKE I JUST GOT A PEEK AT HER BOOBS!

WHAT'S GOING ON? SHE'S WEARING CLOTHES BUT

Why ?!

That's it... Plus the fact that she's too kind of a person.

Hanekawa's only like that because she's good at caring about others.

She's just decided to meddle in my life because of that wonderful little misunderstanding ...

She thinks that the worst people out there are in the worst positions...

That they're the worst off or something.

So...

Mr. Oshino helped Hanekawa out, too?

Wait, did I say that?

Ack!

He called her Missy Class President, and said how that Shinobu girl helped her out, remember?

And if she's not your girlfriend, either— *that's what it means,* right?

Hm...

...

Smart people ...

tire me out so much...

HAAH ...

Well... I won't try to convince you with Hanekawa's seal of approval or anything...

but I do think it's all right to trust him. His personality is one thing, but he's good at what he does...

FWOOF

Sorry,

but I don't have an inch of trust for him yet.

I *happened* to slip on the stairs,

and the person who *happened* to catch me *happened* to be a classmate who was attacked by a vampire over spring break,

and you *happened* to have a connection to a homeless-looking old man who squats in the abandoned ruins of a former cram school who *happens* to be able to save me.

and the president of his class *happened* to have been involved with aberrations,

I couldn't possibly be so optimistic

to believe in that kind of coincidence.

Excuse me ?!?!

...I put my clothes on backwards.

Could you take them back off for me?

My clothes.

They're heavy.

Getting changed isn't my forte.

I'm not that conceited.

You're just proud of your body and trying to show it off to me, aren't you?!

O-Oh...

Right...

Hey, Senjoga-hara.

About your mom... when she fell for that religion...

was it for your sake?

What an un-pleasant question.

Beats me.

Maybe that wasn't it.

an unpleasant answer.

Beats me.

Maybe that wasn't it.

And that's

Ah, you're here.

バフッ
BWOOF

There's no way she wouldn't notice a bizarre change in her daughter...

Her mother, at that.

A family member living in the same house.

Wh...

What is that...?

Hm? Oh.

I'm setting the mood, that's all.

All right.

Especially if doctors had thrown in the towel,

and they'd already fallen for countless frauds.

If you're in a situation like that...

who could blame you for trying to find emotional solace...?

Let's get this over with.

"Get it over with" ...?

Is it going to be that easy to beat back this crab?

Beat it back?

Hah hah hah. What a violent line of thought.

Some-thing good happen to you, Araragi ?

SLIP

!!

WHAP

Hm.

So I was wrong.

Beings whose existence is a given. They've been there since long before you were ever born.

they're simply *there*, *that's all.*

Listen, *because* I've told you this once already,

They might as well not exist,

in other words.

So they *won't do anything to us as long as we don't come in contact with them.*

In other words... you're saying that— *I was the one* to reach out and make contact with this aberration?

It was *you*.

It wasn't this crab who climbed right into your territory.

I'm glad you're a sharp one, Missy.

That's right.

a spiritual field of sorts.

This is a space created for that purpose,

and ask.

So I want you to be humble and as restrained as possible.

Act with modesty,

Putting aside humans taken as a cluster,

These guys are a pretty undiscerning bunch.

Um... Is it okay for me to be in it, too?

It's fine.

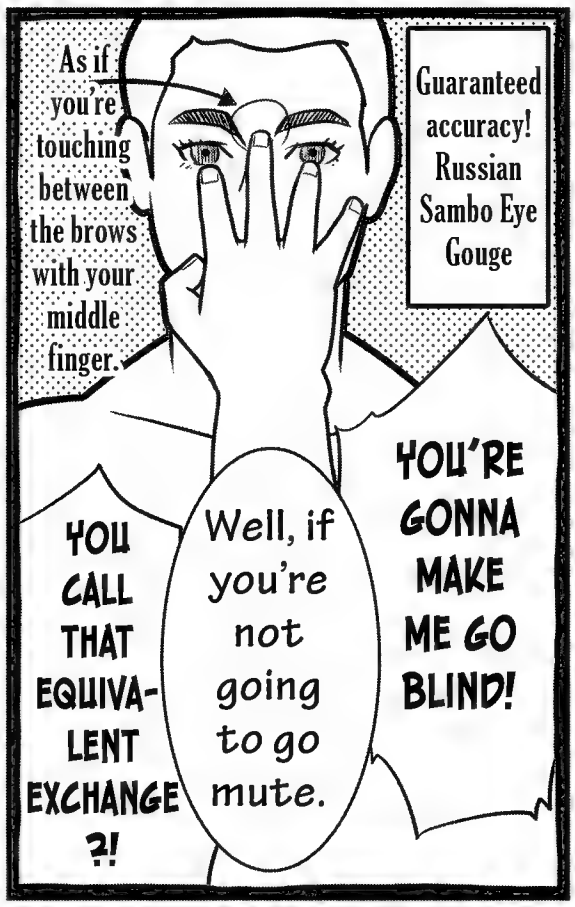
Yeah.

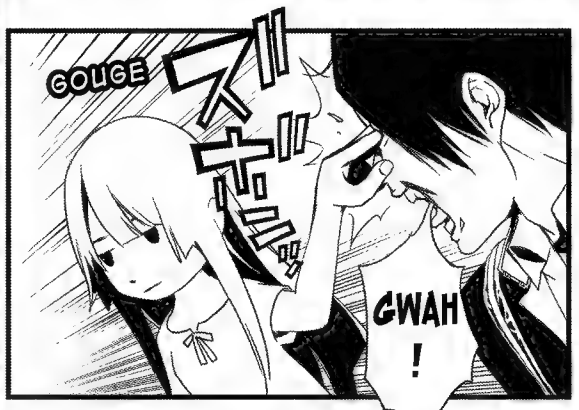
All we are to them are "human."

Not even about discerning between the three of us— no, *they don't even care* that we're different beings.

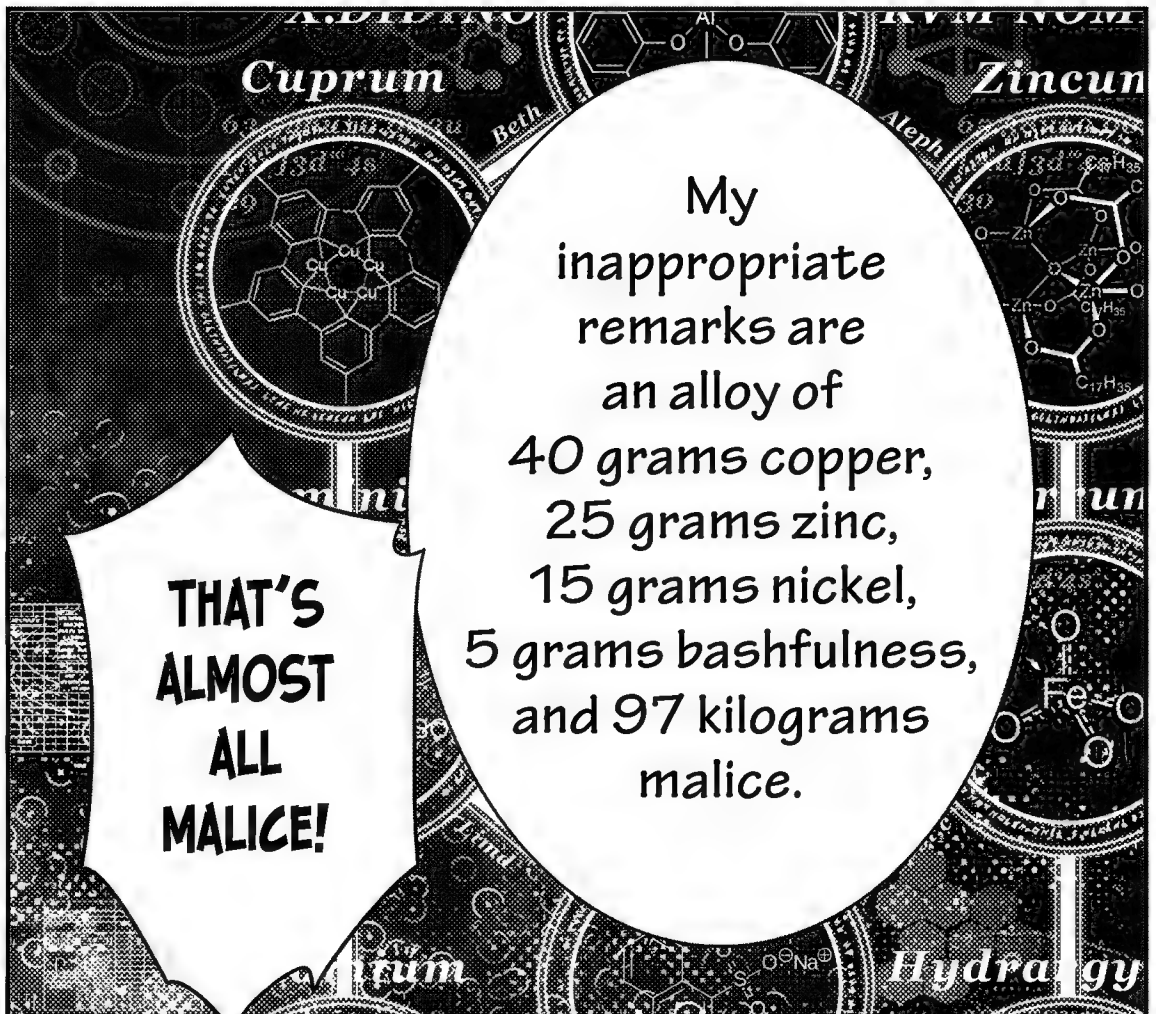
they really couldn't care less about us on an individual basis.

Also, I was lying about the bashfulness.


As if you're touching between the brows with your middle finger.
Guaranteed accuracy! Russian Sambo Eye Gouge
YOU CALL THAT EQUIVA-LENT EXCHANGE?!
Well, if you're not going to go mute.
YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME GO BLIND!



She got rid of her one saving grace!!!


THAT'S ALMOST ALL MALICE!
My inappropriate remarks are an alloy of 40 grams copper, 25 grams zinc, 15 grams nickel, 5 grams bashfulness, and 97 kilograms malice.

I've made up my mind, Araragi.

Hmf!

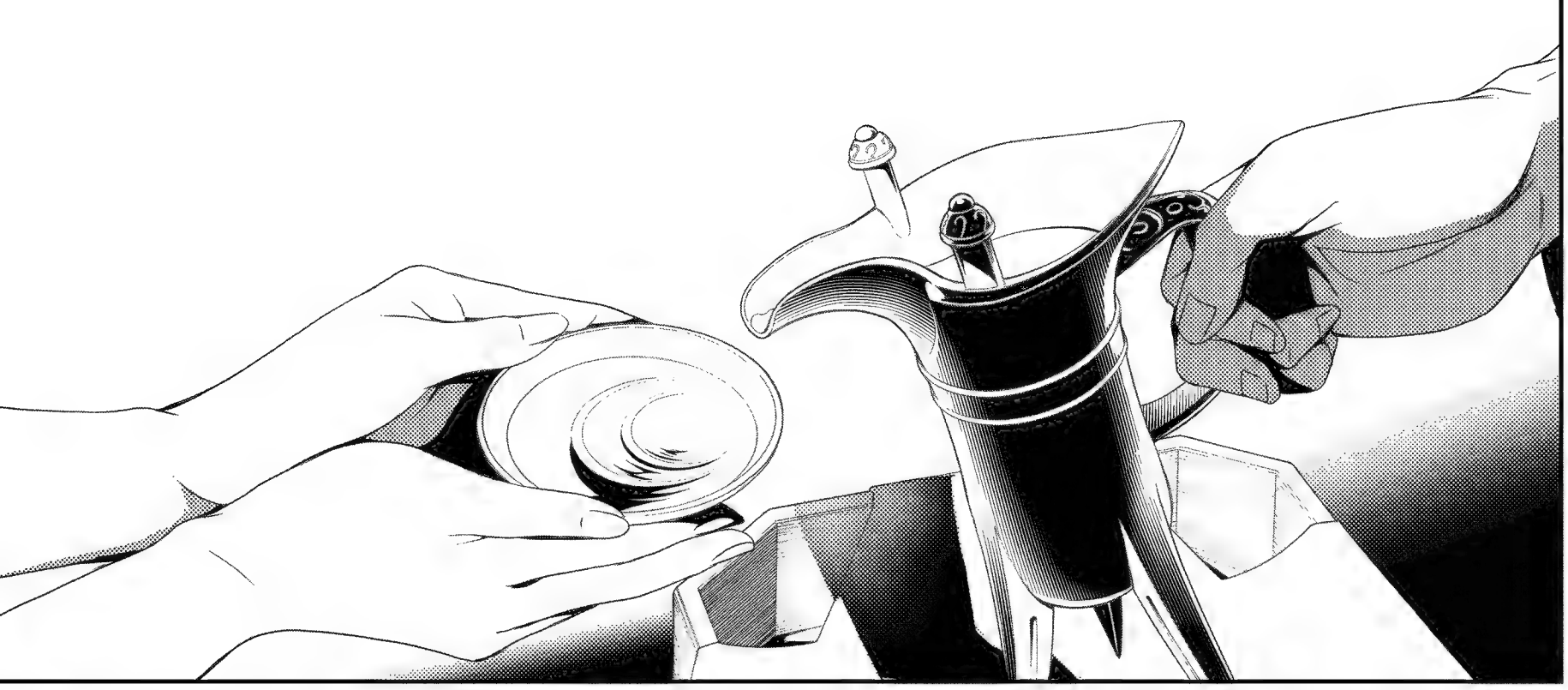
What?! Why?

Me, too ...?

You didn't know?

If this all goes well, let's get crabs in Hokkaido.

Crabs are delicious.



Hoo

Start by letting your guard down.
Relax.

One.
Two.
Three.
Four.
Five.
Six...
Sev-
en...
Let's
count.
Then let's
answer some
questions.
...
Yes.
Do you
feel
calm?
!
STARE...

This stage.

Hitagi Senjo-ga-hara.

What's your name?

Oshino's out-of-character appearance, this silence.

July 7th.

What's your birth-day?

Nao-etsu Private High.

What school do you go to?

...

SSFF

"I'm setting the mood."

Or to take it further... he's setting up Senjogahara's mental state.

The most important thing when conversing with them is the *mood*.

The *method* doesn't really matter.

Oshino once told me about this.

He said it's like a type of hypnotic suggestion.

Wall

and bringing about a relationship of trust."

"Tearing down the heart's walls...

"Getting them to trust you."

ちゅぅ.

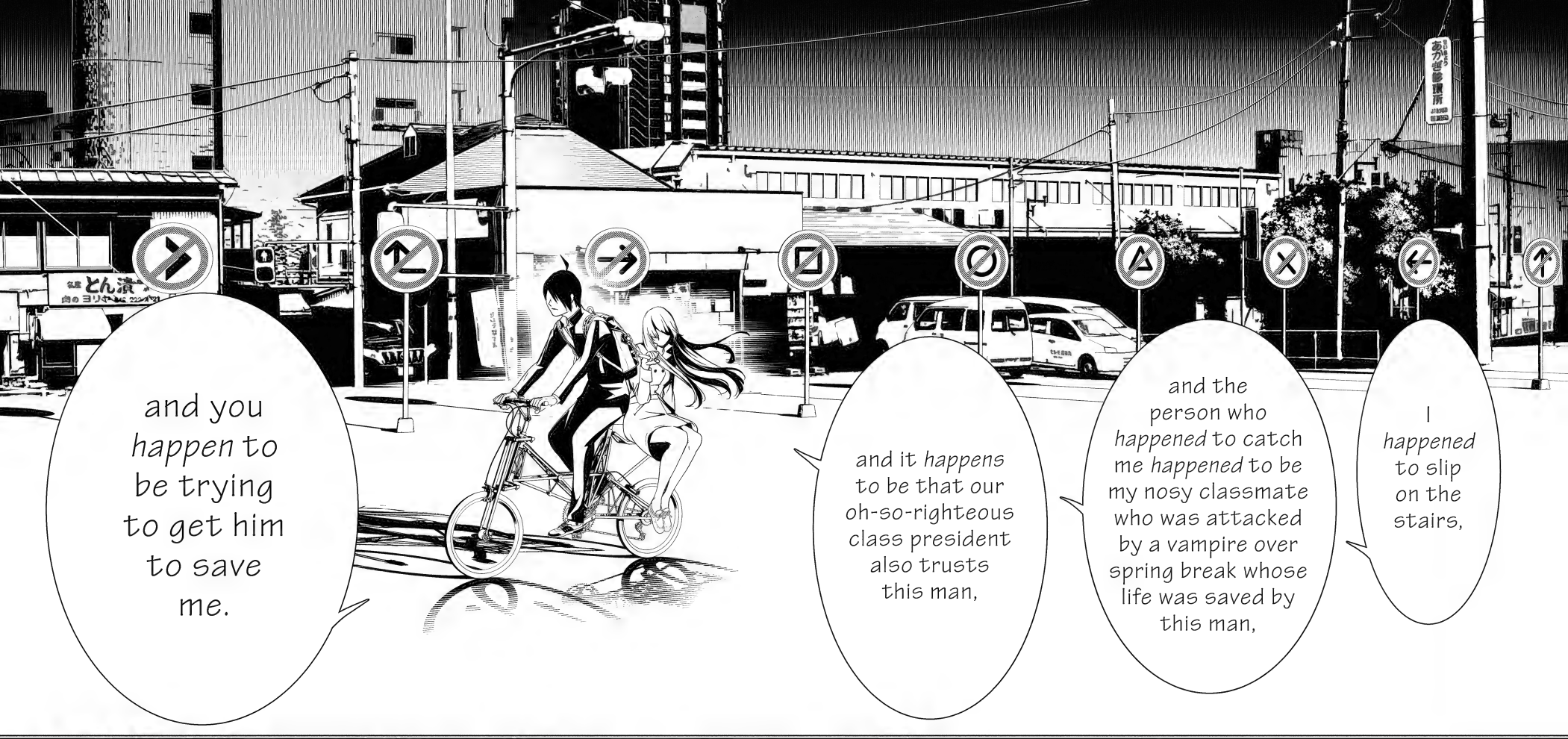
CHLURP

But we need to get Senjogahara to believe Oshino first here.

They say, "Believe and you shall be saved."

I don't have an inch of trust for him yet.

But...


and you happen to be trying to get him to save me.
and it happens to be that our oh-so-righteous class president also trusts this man,
and the person who happened to catch me happened to be my nosy classmate who was attacked by a vampire over spring break whose life was saved by this man,
I happened to slip on the stairs,

I wouldn't say this happens to be a coincidence.

What I'd say... is that *fate brought me here.*

In that case, I might be able to see some value in trust here.

"So it's not that I'm going to trust him.

It's that I think I'll trust the way you feel, as someone who trusts him."

Who is your favorite author?

Yumeno Kyusaku.

An embarrassing story from when you were a kid?

I don't want to say.

Favorite classical music?

I'm not very well-versed in the genre.

TWITCH

...

What experience in your life hurt the most?

painful experience.

Your most

What's wrong?

Your mother?

M... My... mother...

...

My mother ...

...falling for ...a bad religion...

That's ...

all?

THP

That's no big deal.

What do... you mean...?

SKRAPE

GRRK

What your mother reveres is merely an issue of method-ology.

No, freedom of faith is recognized as an authentic human right.

Freedom of faith is recognized by the laws of Japan.

After...
that...

My mother got duped by a cult, and—

After that...!!!

she got duped...

she— for my religion... sake, and...

She fell for that religion...

My... My mother...

Like I... said.

What happened?

Try and say it.

—So that's not all.

Our home.

Our home!!

An executive member of the group...

He came to our home ...!!

An executive member.

He went there ...

and then what ...?

He said it would be a ritual— and then...!!!!

He... He said it would be purifying.

SPLAT

I see.

So... it ended at an attempt...

Good for you.

Very brave.

But...!

But ...

My moth- er...

didn't try to save me.

Again... and again...

She hit me.

In fact... she scolded me.

I see.

Your mother was penalized?

Because I injured that executive—

I... I...

And my family... broke.

Even our land— everything! They even made us go in debt.

Yes... So they took it... Our property... Our home.

IT CONTINUES TO FALL APART... IT CONTINUES TO, SIR ...!!!
MY FATHER'S BEEN STRUG-GLING THIS ENTIRE TIME!
IT COM-PLETELY BROKE, AND YET... IT CONTIN-UES...!
SHE'S PROBABLY STILL PRACTIC-ING HER FAITH, NOT HAVING LEARNED A THING, UNASHAMED!

such a total idiot.

It's not like this aberration destroys stuff around her or anything...

It might be a serious problem for her...

I made materials for our two choices for the culture festival, a cafe and a haunted house. We'll be proposing them in tomorrow's home room, so please be ready for the presentation.

I am ...

Idiot.

It's a total catastro-phe!

It's shattering ... everything around in pieces !!

I realize...

it's not appro-priate.

When I saw her naked as a baby... I didn't feel anything.

But now,

I can't keep these feelings down.

Now that Senjogahara is baring everything, down to what's in her heart...

She's so

pretty.

Ah...

...

I see ...

I can... see it!

Aaaaaaaaah!!

A huge crab ...!!!

A crab ...

All I can see is... your shadow.

Well, I don't see a thing.

Do you, now.

No... I can see it...!

It's clear to me... The crab from then is right here...!!

isn't there something you should say to it?

In that case,

I see.

A crab...

I get it now... Its name...

It is important... Yeah.

Names are important.

It's not just... the omoshi-kani.

It's an omoshi-*kami*— a god!!

I...!

I...

...!

...Something ...I should... say?

I can't help... but think...

if only... if only back then...

...I hadn't resisted...

It might not have broken!!

It might not have broken.

I... really do...

I do... think that...!

Do you really?

Do you think that?

that is your thought and burden.

Thought

Weight

Then *that*, Missy...

Leaving it to someone else isn't the way to go.

No matter how weighty, it's what you need to shoulder.

A little secret between us. You see, the thing about gods...
is that they all love little girls.
They have a weakness for your tears.
Someone's been supporting that weight for you all this time so that you wouldn't break.
So why don't you go and thank that kind god?
Ah...
DRIP
SHUDDER
SHING

BOOM
Huh?
Whoa ...?!
Now this is bad.

ZSSKKT

You're just going to get saved on your own.

I can't save you.

Senjo-ga-hara.

is be your wall

the least I can do

But

any more than you already have.

so that you don't have to break

ドゴ

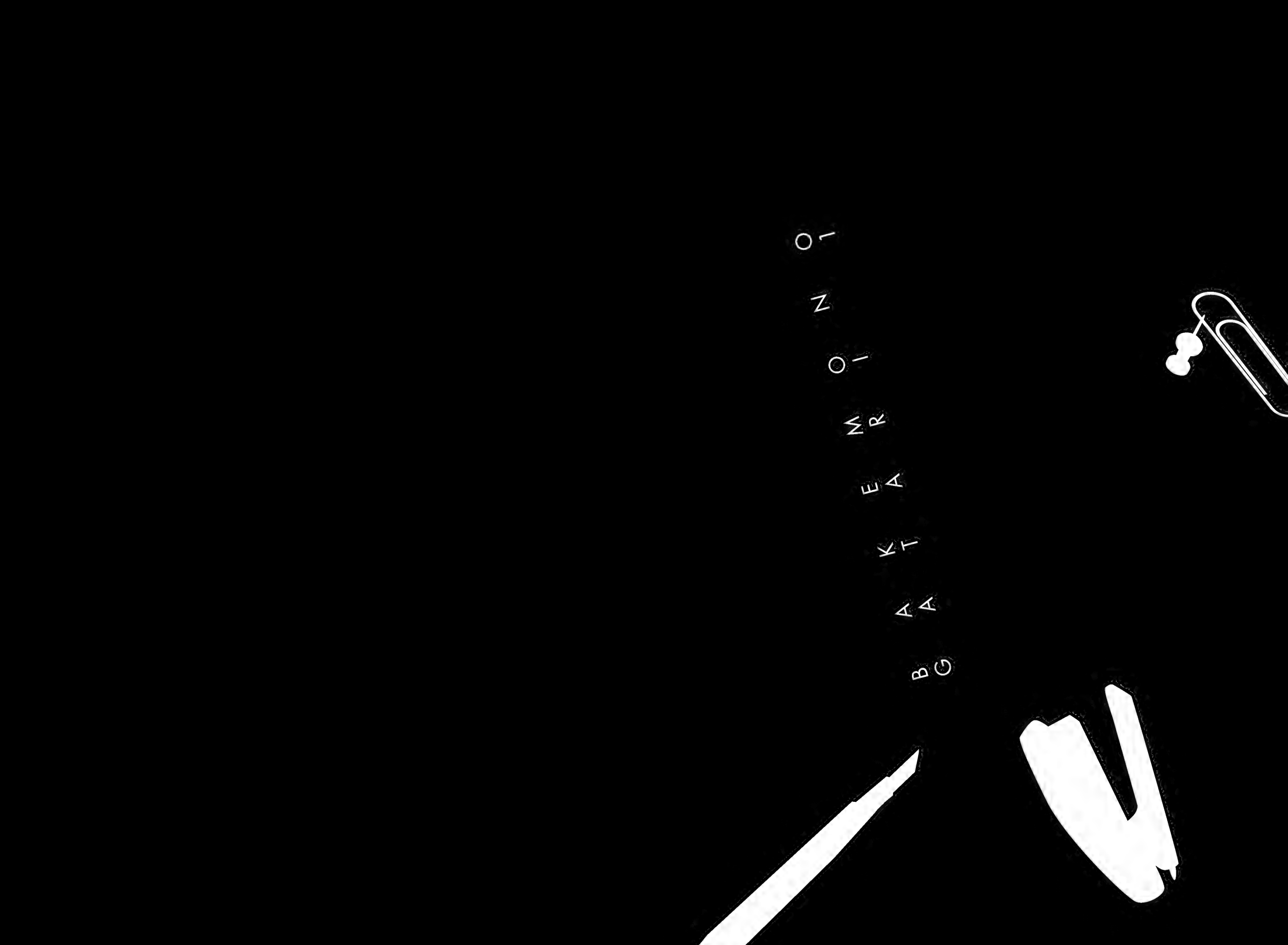
GA

KRAKK

ドゴ

ドゴ

ドゴ


O⁻
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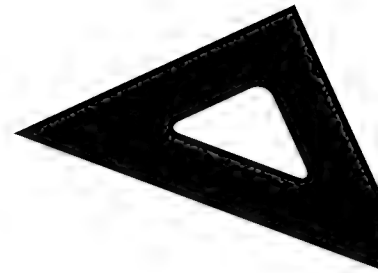
BAGGAGE

TAKE

FROM

HOME



Aaa

aah!

What

Ah!

GSSHT

GSSHT

just

hap-

pened

...?!

GSSHT

GSSHT

Senjogahara went into a trance.

This was so she could converse with the crab—

no,

G—

Gravity's going... sideways...?!

with the *god* who'd stolen her weight.

Haa!

Haa

ギチ GCHHT

I can't see a thing,

ギチ GCHHT

Hah

but Senjogahara can see it.

That it's not interested in hearing... what you have to say...?!

Does this mean... it rejected you?!

D—

!

Really, Araragi ?

You're just making things even worse by sneaking in there under her. What're you doing?

GRRT

PLOD

GRRRT

There's a bag between us!! We're not touching !!!

It's okay!!

Wait, why am I spending time arguing about this right now?!

You were listening to us?!

So you've bothered to give her a cushion this time around.

I see.

WHAPP

PA POP

Ah, sheesh.

How sporting. Wonder if something good happened to it.

Couldn't even wait for us to start praying.

What an impatient god.

Change of plans.

This is pretty standard, though.

FWOOO

Either way was fine for me from the beginning.

Listen, Missy. I'm not saving you here, okay?

PEEL

No, it...

ZHBOOF

SLAMM

hup.

Aaa-
and

Wuh
?!

GWOOMM

WHLIMP

PTT

TAP

SKRK

EEK

Huh ?

SHATTER

KLINK

KLINK

I can't see a thing.

KLINK

KLINK

But ... she must see some-thing. And to her...

God

SPLATT

You okay?

it seems to be a sight that makes her eyes go wide.

In fact, I'd say the only thing size does for a crab is make it easier to step on.

No matter how big a crab gets, turn it upside down, and there you go.

What do you think, Araragi?

Personally, it'd be quickest for me to go on and squish and squash it.

He was getting ready to step on a god. In a consummately violent manner. Without an ounce of deference.

We certainly could redo this from the beginning, but it'd be such a hassle.

Yeah.

Squish and squash it...?

But, that thing... that crab...

that's the god who protected Senjogahara, isn't it...?!

Just take a look.

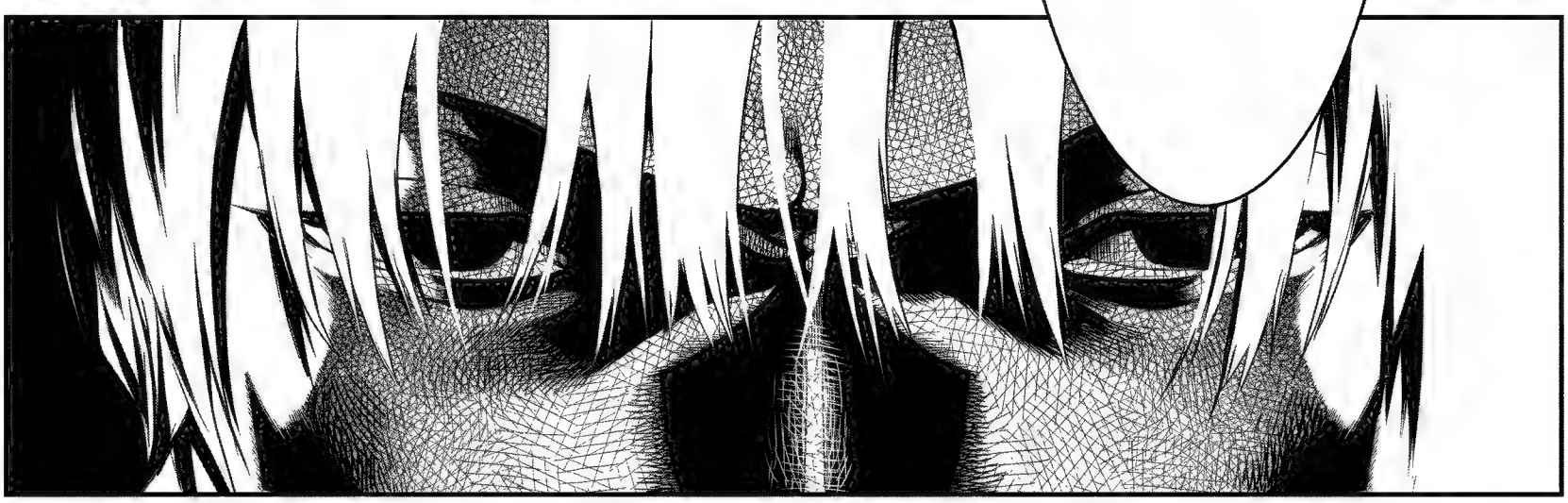
The way these things think is nothing like us.

whatever it is, there's no way we can ever under-stand it.

or it felt frisky because her tears fell on it, well...

It either got mad at Missy for raising her head,

If we can't talk, there's only war.



In a sense, it's almost like politics.

In the end, this stuff is about your frame of mind.

If we can't be nice and ask a favor... then we have to resort to dangerous ideas.

Well, simply crushing it would solve her problems on a surface level.

It's a palliative treatment that doesn't touch the root.

Just mowing the weeds, so to speak, instead of pulling them.

HEY, OSHINO !!!

AND GO FOR WHAT ?!

THIS OCCA-SION?!

But maybe on this occasion I should just go for it~

This crab took that weight from her in return for some-thing.

It's equiva-lent exchange.

She did have it stolen from her.

I mean... Missy offered her weight to it.

Weight

In other words... Missy still owes this crab something.

If you want to wipe the slate clean without returning what you owe...

GRKKK

If you're gonna cheat, you might as well go all the way.

I don't care what it might be.

KRAK

KRIK

KREEAK

KREEAK

Right?

KRIK

KRAK

we're just going to have to kill it.

And anyway, Araragi...

Everyone goes quiet while you're eating them, right?

You see, I despise crabs.

I can't stomach that.

I can do it... on my own.

Wait... Please, Mr. Oshino...

I can... do this.

WAIT !!

SFF

I'm sorry.

Her words sound nothing like all the verbal abuse she hurled my way.

No thorns. No stiffness.

Thank you very much.

And had so much weight.

But these thoughts are my burden.

I will carry them myself.

It wasn't right of me to lose them.

Please.

Please.

I beg of you, give me back my weight.

What I took from you,

what you did to give me relief.

I will give it all back.

So please.

Please give me back

the bond between me and my mother

that you cut.

Please give me back

my mother.

Continued in Volume 2

BAKEMONOGATARI in Detail

The Path of the Series

2005
- "Hitagi Crab" runs in the September 2005 issue of *Shousetsu Gendai Zoukan Mephisto*

2006
- Bakemonogatari (Part 1), Bakemonogatari (Part 2) released

2008
- Kizumonogatari, Nisemonogatari (Part 1) released

2009
- Nisemonogatari (Part 2) released
- Bakemonogatari TV anime broadcast

2010
- Nekomonogatari (Black), Nekomonogatari (White), Kabukimonogatari released

2011
- Hanamonogatari, Otorimonogatari, Onimonogatari, Koimonogatari released

2012
- Tsukimonogatari released

2013
- Koyomimonogatari, Owarimonogatari (Part 1) released

2014
- Owarimonogatari (Part 2), Owarimonogatari (Part 3), Zoku Owarimonogatari released

2015
- Orokamonogatari released

2016
- Kizumonogatari 1: Tekketsu-hen anime released in theaters
  Wazamonogatari, Nademonogatari released

2017
- Musubimonogatari, Shinobumonogatari released

2018
- Bakemonogatari manga version begins serialization in issue 15 of *Weekly Shonen Magazine*

PRESENT DAY
- Yoimonogatari released

What is BAKEMONOGATARI?

A novel written "entirely as a hobby" by NISIOISIN published by the Kodansha BOX label. The series, which started with *Bakemonogatari*, is known as the *Monogatari* series. Taiwanese illustrator VOFAN is responsible for the cover art and insert illustrations. It has now been adapted into various forms of media, including a TV anime series.

The Path of the Manga Until Now

Before entering high school:

Hitagi encounters a crab and has her weight taken from her.

Second year of high school:

3/25 (spring break)

Koyomi encounters a vampire on the verge of death.

Senior year of high school:

Currently in the manga:

April 29 (Golden Week)

Hanekawa comes to owe Oshino a debt of gratitude

May 8

Morning: Koyomi catches Hitagi

Night: Koyomi and Hitagi visit Mèmè

Mayoi Snail

Suruga Monkey

Nadeko Snake

Tsubasa Cat

A List of Works in the Monogatari Series

First Season:	Bakemonogatari (Part 1), Bakemonogatari (Part 2), Kizumonogatari, Nisemonogatari (Part 1), Nisemonogatari (Part 2), Nekomonogatari (Black)
Second Season:	Nekomonogatari (White), Kabukimonogatari, Hanamonogatari, Otorimonogatari, Onimonogatari, Koimonogatari
Final Season:	Tsukimonogatari, Koyomimonogatari, Owarimonogatari (Part 1), Owarimonogatari (Part 2), Owarimonogatari (Part 3), Zoku Owarimonogatari
Off-Season:	Orokamonogatari, Wazamonogatari, Nademonogatari, Musubimonogatari
Monster Season:	Shinobumonogatari, Yoimonogatari

...and more?!

BAKEMONOGATARI 2
A voice flowing forth from Hitagi's heart.
As she faces her weighty past,
the girl decides to take on a love that was too heavy for her.
Will she be able to get it back?
"Hitagi Crab" comes to its conclusion.
And then...
My mother's smile belongs to me alone...
Volume 2 on sale January 2020
Next Volume Preview

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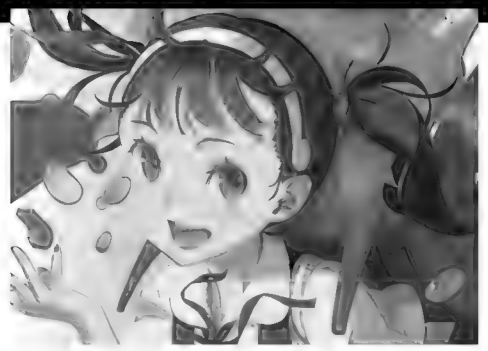

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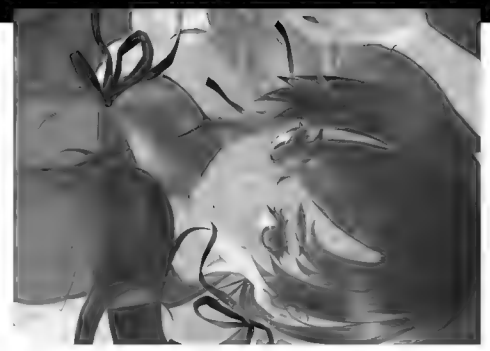

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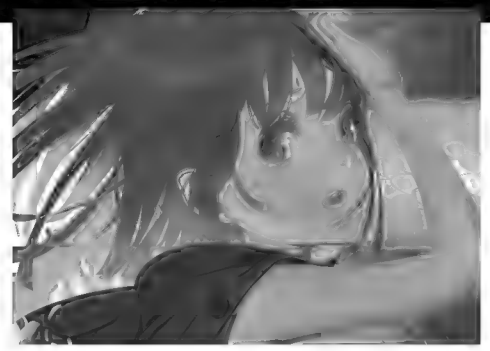

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